

Matters pertaining to education, teaching, etc., should be freely discussed in such Unions. The deficiency arising from want of training would be partly mitigated by such Unions.

The Member next considered the question of affording scope for ample physical exercise to the pupils. The working hours in the Elementary schools were from 10 A. M. to 12 noon and again from 1 P. M. to 4 P. M. The period was unduly long, especially for boys of tender age, most of whom did not get their mid-day meals. The Member suggested that the working hours in Elementary schools be fixed from 7-30 A. M. to 10 A. M. and again from 3 P. M. to 4 P. M. One period of 50 minutes was also unduly long. Arrangements should also be made for examining the physical condition of the boys from time to time.

There were bitter complaints from several quarters in regard to the selection of Text-books. The Member was of opinion that the selection of a book should depend upon its intrinsic worth and not upon the authors of the books. There should be an understanding that only original works, adaptations from books written in other languages, and scientific books would be selected as text-books. If the present Text-book Committee did not carry out their trust properly, a re-constitution of the Committee might be effected. It would be well if books written by approved authors were selected as text-books.

Under the Copyright Bill recently passed by the Legislative Council a book written in another language could be translated into Malayalam only 10 years after the date of its first publication. As there was a dearth of good books in Malayalam, the Member said that the above provision was unwholesome and should be deleted.

Finally, the Member spoke about the necessity of imparting higher education in Malayalam. The education up to the VII class in Malayalam and III Form in English was termed primary, while the education from IV Form upwards was termed Secondary. If the subjects taught from IV Form up to VI Form in English be taught in Malayalam, the education so imparted might be termed Secondary education in Malayalam. As Malayalam was taught as an optional subject in English schools, English might be taught as an optional subject in such Malayalam Secondary classes. The people wanted the introduction of Secondary education in Malayalam also. Those who passed the examinations prescribed for Malayalam Secondary classes should be granted Secondary School Leaving Certificates in Malayalam which should be of the same value as the Secondary School Leaving Certificates in English. In accordance with the opinion of the Special Committee appointed sometime back to enquire into the condition of Vernacular education, the Member suggested that the proposed higher classes in Malayalam should be attached to the existing higher grade Secondary schools so as to form a distinct section in those schools.

In conclusion, the Member prayed that the changes suggested by him might be sympathetically considered by the Government and that the same be sanctioned in commemoration of the *Shashti* of His Highness the Maha Rajah.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

115. Suggestions for improving Vernacular Education.

Mr. N. Trivikrama Kymal (Member, Changanacherry taluk) spoke about the present unsatisfactory condition of Vernacular education and of its uselessness to the pupils to earn a living after leaving school. He then made the following suggestions:—

- (1) Technical education should be introduced in Elementary schools.
- (2) Classes 8, 9 and 10 should be opened in them with a view to give instruction to the pupils preparing for the Higher Vernacular Examinations.
- (3) A Vernacular examination on the model of the Middle School examination should be introduced.
- (4) A few schools, where agriculture and industry should be made compulsory and where practical lessons in those subjects should be given, should be opened as an experimental measure.

(5) The number of Departmental schools should be increased with a view to impart proper and improved instruction.

(6) More attention should be paid to the matter of selecting text-books. State aid is necessary in the production of useful books in literature. The number of text-books for the several classes should be reduced.

(7) Vernacular should be more largely used in official communications, etc. and men with higher Vernacular examination qualifications should be employed more largely in the Government service.

(8) Competent teachers should be appointed in the Elementary schools to teach English.

(9) The appointment of Range Inspectors might be abolished as their duties could be very well done by Assistant Inspectors.

(10) Lastly, the Member pointed out the desirability of opening a few L. G. E. Schools in some places, such as Chennankara in Neelamperur *pakuthi*, where more than 600 boys were without education for want of schools.

Mr. K. Krishnan (Member, Nominated) made some suggestions for improving Vernacular education. Firstly, he suggested that Vernacular Girls' schools also should be placed under the control of the Deputy Director of Public Instruction and said that the present system, under which it has been placed under a lady who did not know the Vernacular of the State, was not conducive to the best interests of the Vernacular. Secondly, sufficient facilities were not being afforded to raise the standard of the Vernacular. ~~Sixteen years were necessary to finish a course of English education at School, whereas 7 years were considered enough for the Vernacular.~~ The Member's suggestion was that steps should be taken to lengthen the Vernacular School course. Lastly, the Member represented that the minimum age for the School Final Examination candidate should be reduced from 15 to 12.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

116. Need for developing the Malayalam language.

Mr. Trivikramar Vasudevar (Member, Jenmi, Padmanabhapuram Division) said that the form of correspondence in the Vernacular adopted by subordinate officers of the Government in addressing private gentlemen was not as it ought to be. The form was, in many cases, open to objection. The Member prayed that the matter be enquired into by the Government and a proper form prescribed so as to obviate the complaint.

The Member also made the following suggestions for the consideration of the Government:—

(1) In all Government offices, correspondence should be carried on in Malayalam except in unavoidable cases.

(2) Arrangements should be made for the grant of translations of judgments of Courts. If necessary, extra fees might be charged for translation also.

(3) The Proceedings of the Town Improvement Committees should be ordered to be conducted in Malayalam. It was desirable to prepare the records of the Committee also in Malayalam.

(4) Such publications as the Census Report, the State Manual, etc., which were of general interest, should be arranged to be translated into Malayalam.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

117. Desirability of opening a Tamil Higher Grade Elementary School at Chalai in Trivandrum.

Mr. S. V. E. A. Palasubrahmanyan Pandaram (Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum) said that the absence of a Tamil Higher Grade Elementary school at